Establishment of USER in AP

1385. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prof. C.N.R. Rao Committee has suggested the Central Government to set up Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (USER) in order to create quality education and research in basic sciences;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the request of Andhra Pradesh to set up such an institute in Tirupati;

(c) if so, the details regarding the steps proposed to set up the research institute-; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, had suggested setting up of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (USER) in order to create quality education and research in basic sciences. In this regard IISERs at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali have been set up. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up an USER at Tirupati.

Students union elections in Universities

†1386. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Universities of the country in which elections for students union have been conducted from 1st January, 2006 to till date;

(b) the names of the universities in which these elections have not been conducted alongwith the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these elections will be conducted in Jamia Milia Islamia and Kashi Hindu University?

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†Orlginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No such information is maintained Centrally.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Elections to student bodies in universities depend on the relevant provision, if any, in the Statutes or Ordinances of the concerned university and the Central Government have no role in the matter. As informed by these two universities, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi is in the process of Constitution of Students Council in place of Students Union to be implemented from the Academic Session (2007-08) and in Jamia Millia Islamia, Elections have not been held for the Academic Session (2006-07) so far.

Literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh

1387. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise, sex-wise and major sub-caste-wise, specially for Madigas and Malas for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(b) the measures taken and proposed to be taken to improve the literacy rate among Scheduled Caste population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The literacy rate in the country is collected through the decennial census operations. According to 2001 census the literacy rate among Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh is 53.5%. A Statement-I showing the district-wise and sex-wise literacy rate of scheduled castes in Andhra Pradesh, as per 2001 Census, is enclosed. (See below). Another Statement-ll showing the sex-wise literacy rate by individual caste in Andhra Pradesh as per 2001 Census is enclosed *(See* below).

(b) The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group, particularly amongst women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In Andhra Pradesh 22 districts have been covered under the Continuing Education Programme for setting up 18548 Continuing Education Centres to provide lifelong education